

Bristol, November 1st 1843.

I know so little about
your postage charges
that I should much
like to be informed what
you pay for them & what
you expect.

See nothing

I will not delay thanking you for your very interesting

letter in answer to various inquiries relating to S. P. proceedings &c. &c. (I
fully the day I do not know Mr. Martineau at present having the letter) I
felt ashamed to have occasioned you so much trouble, but I trust you know
it not at all. Why mine of April 2nd did not reach you sooner I know not.
I was particular in sending it in proper time & in paying the required postage.
Had I been in good health your answer might have arrived in time for my doing
what I wished for this year. But in the 1st of July I was seized
with a severe illness, & did not leave my bed for six weeks, having been very
near to death. I was however most mercifully preserved, but have not yet re-
gained my wonted strength. Probably, I never shall, but I am experiencing
unnumerable mercies demanding gratitude, resignation & contentment.
I wish I could talk with you, or with some such as you, - I ought to be, as
I have almost in any other way having ^{all the data that} ~~data~~ I think useful to
enable me to form a correct judgment as to the merits & demerits of the various
Anti-Slavery parties in America. I really study the Liberator, as the Bible most
impatiently gives insertion to articles violently opposed to himself & his own
I put great confidence that I know the real nature & the extent of the arguments
against the course which Mr. Garrison & those who act with him think it
right to pursue. The more I read the statements of the different Abolition
parties the more lamentable does it seem to me that such differences
of opinion accompanied by animosity & words with you men what
they do with us) should exist among persons engaged in the same
complex & most important object but not seeing the means in the
same point of view. I have appeared to me a great deal of fruitless warfare
among the Abolitionists: no liberation seems to be allowed to wider those
who differ from them in the course it is to be pursued by any party. I don't wonder
the Quakers who are among the Abolitionists do not see the necessity of discussing
so much discussion & ill-will. I cannot understand why contrary
general principles cannot be agreed upon by all Abolitionists, and different
societies or individuals allowed to pursue that course which seems to them
wisest, without being called to account & abused for differing from any other

friend of the Slave? Some may think it right to use political means, others might adopt the Disunion Pledge: - some might work in stimulating Ministers to be more faithful to their duty; others might be allowed to doubt the propriety of putting their clergy forward. If some points of union could be agreed upon, and points brought into prominence the subjects on which they were in union, keeping in the back ground those of difference, & not quarrelling with their neighbours for having not seeing all the course of action in the light that they did, what a formidable opposition would the Slaveholders witness in the North, and how ^{much} more likely would the clergy be to take a more decided anti-slavery side! As it is, I am afraid it will be very long before the latter will be allowed themselves to be abused into a sense of their duty.

My own opinion most decidedly is, that the clergy are not faithful to their duty, & Unitarian Ministers I think particularly censurable: still I can quite understand why some, (if such be the case) who are not anxious to have slavery abolished, are unwilling to unite themselves to any one of the present Societies. Here, in America, I think it very likely that I should hesitate about joining Mr Garrison's society: I could not willingly countenance so much violence of opinion, & seek out persons to those who differ as I see among ^{them}; certainly I could not join any other party.

Even on the Liberator's own showing, I do not see the great sin of the Liberty party, ^{or} tho' they differ about the means, tho' they are less sincere in their desire to free the slave, than the "Old Organizing Men" or original A. S. slavery. I have never seen any view of persons in which I do not agree in this matter; yet still I should hesitate I think to join a Society in which many leading members are so much more violent & intemperate than I imagine you to be: I therefore can understand why many earnest friends of the slave may withhold their ^{countenance from} ~~unconnected~~ your Society without desiring to be called "pro-slavery" people, "brothers of the slave" &c and all this I say without desiring to offer any excuse for the do nothing training, pseudo anti-slavery principles of the Dewey School.

I was pleased with the Minister's letter signed A in the Liberator

of June 27. If that letter be written sincerely, it seems to me very sad that the services of such a man, in the way in which he thinks it his duty to render them, should be spurned. I need hardly reply, but am not satisfied with it. That same paper contains also some ~~useful~~ interesting comments upon the May meeting in Mounts' Chapel. I was not at convinced by them that the course condemned was altogether wrong, but I think some useful hints might be gathered from them by the A. S. Soc^y.

I think your Ministers must not be dissuaded to as to the precise course they must take, but only stimulated to do something. I felt very doubtful in reading Dr. Adair's Life, whether he, a foreigner, did not rather diminish his sphere of usefulness altogether, by the decided part he took as an A. S. partisan. The question is certainly a difficult one, but I think I see where the difficulties lie. If too much be not demanded of your Ministers, and if they are urged to move forward by earnest, Christian persuasion instead of abuse, I should think they could, (the Unitⁿ at least) not be much longer so inactive.

When in London at last May I saw Dr. Monkman, Mr. Coleman & Mr. Simmons: with the two latter I conversed on the Slavery question. Mr. Simmons I had much conversation with. He has joined himself by no means implicitly to the Slave, yet he told me he could not join any of the Abolition Societies. At one of the public meetings which he said would favour, in the estimation of some of his hearers, Dr. Dewey, more I am sure, than A. S. intended. Mr. S. seemed much surprised at finding on the table when he called on me at Wood's Hotel in London, the Liberator. Mr. Coleman talked in a most off-hand way upon the subject. He appeared quite an Anti-Slavery man, but the Abolition friends found no favour with him: some he abused as fools for withholding their votes from valuable candidates, for as legislative representatives ^{of slaves} from some countries, and thus helping in improper ways. The American clergy, ~~as~~ especially Dr. D. he spoke of as most unfaithful to their duties in not denouncing Slavery more strenuously & sincerely; — and with almost every

4/ American I met with, and it strongly affected his conviction that the
negroes were of spring from a different race from that to which white
people owed their origin, and from one altogether inferior.
At the ^{last} meeting of the B. & Foreign Unitⁿ Assocⁿ held in Exeter
Chapel I was presented with an ~~amendment~~ ^{amendment} to a Resolution which
I knew was to have been proposed complimentary to, & sympathetic
with "our American Unitarian brethren": the nature of my addition
was, that they might evidence the influence of their Unitⁿ Christianity
being forward in aiding to abolish Slavery in their country, and I
believe it would have been ^{the not without opposing but} ~~most~~ ^{most} ~~unlucky~~ ^{unlucky} an unwelcome
discussion on the Everett Grant to Maynooth College was allowed
our time was completely consumed by it, & no reference whatever
was made to America in this, or business meeting. At the
social breakfast party, Mr. James & Mr. Tolly started the subject
but it was then quite out of place, and I think the cause was damaged
had there been ^{an} opportunity in which a resolution could have been
proposed to have been formally sent to America, I would not have
allowed it to ~~pass~~ ^{escape}: I am no friend to "Vox, et postea even nihil".
Mr. Mortimer was in Bristol some time ago, & I took some pains
to inform him upon the nature of the Abolition movement among you.
I gave him your letter, & some Liberator's: few people here have
any clear & correct ideas on the subject, (perhaps you will
think I am as little up to the mark as any) & I found Mr. M.
wanted information. I was amused by his telling me that Dr.
Dewey, presuming that he (Mr. M.) was opposed to the A. S. Society
from his not signing the ^{English} Unitⁿ Minister's Address, ~~from~~ wrote
to him, ~~disappreciate~~ ^{disappreciate} an approving letter; whereupon Mr. Mortimer
assured the Rev^d Dr. that he was by no means opposed to them, ^{the A. S. Society}
& gave his reasons for not signing that Address which were of a different
kind. I doubt not he told Dr. D. ~~and~~ what he said to me that he
considered the Amⁿ Clergy were unfaithful to their duty in not
taking a more decided part against Slavery, for Mr. M. does not conceal his
opinion

5/ A little controversy is now going on here which you will see by the Inquirer, (which I think you read) between Mr. James Haughton rather an active scribe, & the some anonymous defender of the Am. Minister, who takes the ground that some of our principal Ministers, (the Secy. of State, Adams & in saying that we do not understand the position of your Ministers &c. Mr. Haughton does not mind the matter, & advises our ministers not to welcome such men as Dr. Pankhurst & Dr. Dewey among them.

I admired Douglass's life as soon as I saw the ad^t of it, but it is not come from Am^a; I knew not if it will be reprinted here - I have however used the copy you sent to Miss Carpenter, & was much interested in it. I hope he may come to Bristol, but am sorry to find that the leading knaves here, to whose activity we must look for getting up a good attendance if he lectures, have a prejudice against him because he belongs to "the Garrison party." This information I have from Mr. James; but I am well acquainted with the principal men among them, & will endeavor to disabuse them on this head, and convince them, that ~~in~~ any efforts we may make towards supporting the Am. Abolitionists need have no reference to party matters among themselves.

I have not sufficiently thanked you for the trouble you took in answering so fully the many inquiries I sent you. Tho' I cannot do any thing for this approaching Boston Fair, I trust I shall prefer doing to another. I quite understood, & have recently seen it re-stated, that in some of the States, promiscuousness in teaching the Slaves to read often certain previous conviction of the crime, is a capital offence?

Who is Mr. Bovee Dobbs, who has published six lectures on Animal Magnetism which have been reprinted in this country? Have you read them, and if so, can you tell me what would be thought among your scientific men of such a performance? If a man in this country were to publish similar lectures he would not be regarded with, but simply laughed at. I am puzzled to understand how many subjects, ^{to} which the majority of thinking people in this country ^{are opposed} reject altogether, seem so eagerly embraced on your side of the water?

A box will go from Phil^a to Boston with articles for the Harv,
to that sent last year. A box of

people that your cause was not of
I am afraid you will think me not a thorough poet: and
certainly I should not like to be supposed to accord in all the things
that I am not (as it is) with which I must sym.

did it in other ways, and in other
abolition schemes. I never could sustain such a course as Mrs
Porter, in putting up in religious societies with which he has no connexion.

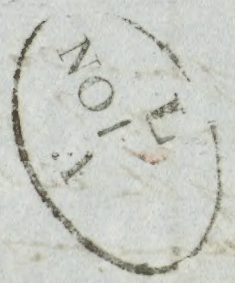
and horrifying as D. S. subjects: it seems a very certain of probity
that ought not to be tolerated. However, ^{among} zealous persons ~~as some~~
injurious ones will be found, & I admit the Anti Slavery party
have had trials of their forbearance to ~~not~~ bear ~~endure~~.
I have been much interested in the speeches at the 1st of August Picnic.
Are you aware of the advance in the W. Indian Islands of the condition
of the colored people? In St. Vincent, which I visited some years ago
for my health, ~~the~~ colored people ^{now} sit in the House of Assembly (that
it is called) as representatives of certain places or districts. The
qualification I believe is property to the amt^y of £300 per Ann.
When I was there in 1833 before emancipation, they sat as jury
men in trials, & marriages between white masters & colored
women ~~was~~ ^{were} not uncommon. In the eyes of our West Indian Prop.
chants, & of many of our Planters in our Islands, the emanci-
pation has been a sad failure: - to the negro population, & in
the eyes of those whose pecuniary interests have not wavered
and who derive the welfare of the human race, it has proved
a great blessing. That generally, & ^{as yet,} ~~but~~ property has de-
preciated in value, there can be no doubt; - but that is but a
grain of dust in the balance.

Does it never occur to Mr. Garrison & other Editors that with a large class of minds the strong
superstition, - violent terms they employ, weaken the effect of their arguments? Truth does not
need this vulgar alliance. I believe many of our people would think badly of the A. S. cause in
America were they to read the Liberator.
the Oberlin Institute? And Mr. Kepp? Is he not of the Liberty party? How were the large
sums collected by him & Mr. Dwyer in England employed? Mr. K. in Bristol only, ob-
tained 5 hundred pounds! Altogether they must have procured £2 or 3000, immense
good might have been done with this. No account of "money raised & disbursed" was reached us.
Mr. Dwyer told me one in Bristol was "taken in" by Mr. K. I hope not. Mr.
Martineau gave those deputies strong recommendations. I hope the money was well
employed? The leading Abolit^{ns} ^{also} gave them ~~strong~~ ^{also} ~~deputies~~ credentials, Mr. Garrison, Wendell
Phillips, L. J. May, D. H. Child, Mrs. Chapman & c., & c. In London £1,600 were
raised. - I once ^{got} ~~had~~ much of the last Boston A. S. Report inserted in one of
our high evangelical church papers, the "Record". Hundreds would thus have
A. S. proceedings who would in no other way. A brother in law of mine is one of the
publishers - My daughter & sister in law Mrs. Nicholl, have just made two basket

of flowers in ^{netting} knitting, quite unique in the kind of work; they would probably form
 their novelty fetch more in an English Bazaar than in America, but they wish to send their work
 would it not be possible to have a letter written & printed to the British contributors
 to the Fair, thanking them generally, and putting under the head of Elegance, Bristol
 is a slight notice of things sent, with a few names of donors? This would seem
 people here, for often working hard they sometimes express regret that they will
 never hear more of their labours, for the private letters do not obtain much cir-
 culation. I know how ever this will be difficult. — How interesting the proceedings
 are respecting C. M. May! I do not envy republican freedom in Lexington. — I do not
 like Garrison's uncharitable attack upon Miss Webster — I was surprised at his at-

& weakness, their influence by a transparent, and dangerous
 proposition. I should think that a lady concealing in our
 with all his good looks & intelligence. I am not doing with it, but
 since now it is necessary. I have been thinking of it, but
 he will leave out the poetry; some of it is poor, although it
 shows the vigour of a work of their character. — In the volume
 known the vigour of a work of their character. — In the volume
 circulated by Mr. May, his friends to Miss Webster's name, "Mystic" type
 it is stated that in some cases the name of Miss Webster is put
 before her name in a letter, but it is for the first time
 stated before in a letter. —
 500 letters, for the same reason.

Rev. A. May,
 care of
 Rev. S. May, Esq.
 Boston
 U. S.



Nov. 1. 1845
 Recd Nov. 1845

putting in to the Liberator such a poem as is in the paper June 20 No respectable
 English paper would have inserted it. — Mr. Armstrong says his regards; he is looking for
 the next copy of the ministerial protest or address, having yet seen only the proof.
 I wish I could get books more easily from Am^a. I want L. Spenser's book, Walker's narrative
 & Miss Webster's trial, & will order them thro' Chapman of London who always gets your books.
 circulation. — Was it not right to turn Miss Kelley out of the Quakers' Meeting? Had she any
 right to attend & speak there? — I have a little indirect communication with H. C.
 Wright, thro' Mr. P. Carpenter in reference to his absent notions, as far as this country is
 concerned, of menomoring Sunday even his, & holding forth on Core Laws, universal
 subjugation & in our pulpits. — I always strive to see well intentioned & able men &